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NSC BRIEFING

4 OCTOBER 1955

INDONESIAN ELECTIONS

- I. In unofficial count of ballots from young nation's first elections, the leftist National Party (PNI) continues to maintain substantial lead (6.3 million, or approx 29% of votes thusfar counted).
 - A. Next biggest poller is unexpectedly strong NU (Nahdlatul Ulama: "Moslem Scholars") with 5 million (23%).
 - B. Communists (PKI) are next, with 4.8 million (22%).
 - C. Among major parties, the pro-US Masjumi is fourth, with 4.6 million (21%).
 - D. Approx ~~4~~ million votes (or 5%) are scattered among minor parties.
- II. Most of vote counted thusfar is from Java, where 69% of Indonesia's electorate is located.
 - A. Most of the eight to ten million votes as yet uncounted were polled in non-Javanese areas.
 - B. Approx 10% of electorate has not yet voted, either because of incomplete preparations or due to local dissidence. These areas must vote by 29 November or be bypassed.
- III. Under Indonesia's system of proportional representation, seats will be granted to various parties according to percentage of popular vote received.

3
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AUTH: HR 70-2

- A. Actual allocation of seats probably will be deferred until all areas have voted, and all votes counted
 - B. Present prime minister (a Masjumi man) has stated his cabinet will continue in office until new parliament seated.
 - C. He probably is counting on minimum of two to three months more, and has mentioned as much as six months.
- IV. Triumphant National Party leaders have demanded that Sukarno request Masjumi coalition cabinet's resignation.
- A. Establishment of new "caretaker" cabinet is a possibility.
 - B. PNI will probably continue to press for such a change in order to get hand into mid-Dec elections (for constituent assembly).
 - C. First hint regarding makeup of next government--whether formed before or after seating of new parliament--seen in comment by pro-PNI newspaper, Merdeka (frequently a party mouthpiece).
 - 1. Merdeka commented that PNI should explore possibility of resuming cooperation with Masjumi.
 - D. NU may be key to future orientation of Indonesian government.
 - 1. However, past record of NU cooperation in both PNI- and Masjumi-led governments leaves its course unpredictable.